

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04037 250636 Z

10

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCA-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 IO-03 PRS-01

USIA-04 RSR-01 /064 W

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R 250610 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8488

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4037

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, KS, KN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ROK INITIATIVE AT FORTHCOMING S- N RED

CROSS MEETING

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF RED CROSS NEGOTIATOR

YI BUM- SUK, AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED CONSIDERING A ROK
INITIATIVE PROPOSING TO NORTH A PILOT EXCHANGE PROGRAM
OF VISITORS FOR SOME HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE.

2. YI TOKD AMBASSADOR HE AGREED COMPLETELY AND HAS

ALREADY BEEN THINKING ALONG SAME LINES. YI SAID HE
HAD IN MIND PROPOSAL THAT BOTH SIDES EXCHANGE 5,000
VISITORS EACH ON AUGUST 15 LIBERATION DAY ANNIVERSARY
FOR TH PURPOSE OF VISITING FAMILY GRAVES IN THE OTHER
SIDE' S AREA.

3. YI SAID NUMBER OF VISITORS ROK COULD MANAGE WOULD
DEPEND ON LOGISTIC AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS.

HOWEVER, HE PERSONALLY SAW NO INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS
WITH HANDLING AS MANY AS 5,000. IN ANY EVENT, TO MAKE
SUFFICIENT PUBLIC IMPACT NUMBER OF PROPOSED VISITORS
WOULD HAVE TO BE SIGNIFICANT, NOT A HANDFUL. YI WOULD
ALSO ENVISAGE ALLOWING AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF
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OFFICIALS FROM EACH SIDE TO COME ALONG TO MANAGE
THE EXCHANGE OF VISITORS.

4. YI SAID THAT HE IS STILL STUDYING DETAILS OF PROPOSAL
BUT HE THINKS IT ENTIRELY FEASIBLE. HE EXPECTS SHORTLY
TO REQUEST CIA DIRECTOR YI HU- RAK' S APPROVAL TO SURFACE
PROPOSAL AT JULY 10-12 PYONGYANG RED CROSS SESSION.
HABIB

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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